

The Lemon Grove REVIEW

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Tuesday, December 19, 1995 25c

The Two Jesus Christs, Part II A Journalist Reviews the Gospels by Steven Saint

Journalists and historians have similar headaches trying to piece together the events of the past. First, if we are not eyewitnesses to the event, we are dependent on sources to tell us what happened. Journalists, it seems, have the advantage of being eyewitnesses to many of the events they cover, whereas historians are usually covering events of the relatively distant past.

Regardless of that, secondhand testimony is only as reliable as the eyewitness. Witnesses often contradict each other. They have biases. There may be people purposely hiding or distorting the truth. That is why it may be as difficult to figure out who killed John F. Kennedy only 32 years ago as it is to pinpoint the year Jesus was born.

Most important, journalists and historians have to suppress their own biases. Someone working on a theory is naturally tempted to advance that theory even if it means leaving out a few facts. The public expects objectivity on the news and wants theorizing left to the editorial page and the lecture hall.

It was not always this way. From time immemorial, historians were storytellers and bards, not scholars. There was no scientific method, no journalistic code of ethics. Up until the early 1960s, newspapers routinely mixed fact and opinion on the front page.

There certainly were no journalists in Bethlehem on the first

tions from Abraham to Jesus (he actually only gives 41 names). Luke gives 56 generations from Abraham to Jesus. The two lists have only 17 names in common. Joseph is Jesus' father on both lists, but Jacob and Heli are Joseph's father in Matthew and Luke, respectively.

Matthew writes that Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, a Jewish king who most scholars say died in 4 B.C. Luke ties the Nativity to Quirinius' term as governor of Syria, the Roman province into which Palestine fell. Most scholars place this a good 10 years

another dream to take Mary and Jesus south to Egypt, as Herod orders the death of all boys in Bethlehem two years old or younger. After Herod is dead, Joseph heads back to Bethlehem, but after a warning in yet another dream, "withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth" (Matthew 2:22-23).

Luke tells a completely different story. He says Mary and Joseph were natives of Nazareth, forced to travel across the country during Mary's pregnancy due to a Roman census.

Luke has the famous scene



Giotto was an artist, not a photographer.

proving Jesus was the Jewish messiah and that his mission was to bring Gentile pagans into the family of God.

"I do indeed think that we can now know almost nothing concerning the life and personality of Jesus," concluded theologian Rudolf Bultmann in 1958, "since the early Christian sources show no interest in either, are moreover fragmentary and often legendary."

A journalist, however, used to relying on interviews with eyewitnesses and experts, is reluctant to write the gospel writers off that easily. After all, Matthew and Luke do agree on many elements of the story: Mary and Joseph, a little town southeast of Jerusalem called Bethlehem, and a migration to Nazareth.

Who were the sources? Where did Matthew get Herod, the magi and Egypt? Who was Luke's source for the census, angels, shepherds and circumcision? Are some sources more reliable than others?

Luke the Journalist

The four gospels do not give biographies of their authors, but second-century bishops Papias and Irenaeus did. They say someone named Matthew published a collection of Jesus' sayings in Hebrew (or Aramaic) and Luke

was a companion of St. Paul.

The early church believed these gospels had original, eyewitness sources and accepted them for spiritual use. This seal of approval was not extended to books like the *Protoevangelium of James* or the *Gospel of the Hebrews*. These same Christians were well aware of the discrepancies between gospel accounts and proposed solutions for several centuries.

Julius Africanus was the first known investigator, proposing in the early 200s A.D. that the Heli listed in Luke's genealogy died childless and his half-brother, the Jacob from Matthew's genealogy, married Heli's widow according to Jewish Levirate laws, begetting Joseph to be the legal heir of Heli. Centuries later, scholars started proposing that Matthew's genealogy is Joseph's, while Luke records Mary's.

In the opening paragraph of his gospel, Luke claims to have done some digging. The New Testament Book of Acts says Luke was a physician — probably the closest thing in the first century to a scientist — and this claim seems substantiated by close inspection of his writings.

Whatever theories people have developed regarding the two genealogies, it seems clear that Luke was referring to somebody's actual records, whereas

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the jesus files

Christmas, and historians (for lack of a better word to call them) had no interest in the birth of Jesus until a couple of decades after he was dead. It should come as no surprise to find that the Christmas stories, found only in two of the four gospels — Matthew and Luke — are completely different and often contradictory.

The Two Jesus Christs

Matthew and Luke both give Jesus' family tree, but very few of the branches match up. Matthew's account is very tidy, with three groups of 14 names, 42 genera-

after Herod's death.

Most significant, perhaps, are the differing versions of the events immediately after Jesus' birth. Matthew tells us Jesus is born without fanfare during the reign of Herod and some two years later, a group of "magi" arrive from Persia in search of a new Jewish king.

Herod hides his panic and asks the astrologers to find the child and report his location. Matthew 2:11 says the magi find Mary's "house" and pay homage to Jesus, but are warned in a dream not to return to Herod.

Joseph is told by an angel in

with cattle lowing and Baby Jesus asleep on the hay. Jewish shepherds — not Gentile kings — arrive, having been directed by angels to seek the manger.

Eight days later, Joseph and Mary circumcise Jesus in Jerusalem and then return to Galilee, "to their own town of Nazareth" (Luke 3:39).

It is these types of dissimilarities that led many scholars — especially German Protestants at the turn of the century — to believe that while Jesus probably existed, the gospels are mostly historical fiction, written by religious believers with the aim of

B Words

Personal comments from Mayor Bob Burns

Passing the torch

One of the proudest accomplishments in my long tenure on the Lemon Grove city council was to, at long last and after much pushing, get the issue of a directly elected mayor on the ballot.

I always felt that we should have a turnover, or a rotation, of the top chair. When this did not happen, I pushed for a mayor elected directly by the voters. I was told by many of our citizens that they felt that they were denied that right in the appointed mayor selection that we had for these many years. Last election provided by a 2-1 margin that the mayor would henceforth be elected by the people, and not the council.

Some said that I had a selfish motive, being that I had longed to be mayor and wished to run against the incumbent. Now that I have been mayor, the truth is that I am satisfied to have the voters decide and I will not be a candidate. This was decided long ago, and my "selfish" reasons are obviously non-existent.

Before we get a deluge of applicants for the various positions, I would like to say something about what I, personally, would like to see happen. Being the first elected mayor is a great honor, and I think it will demonstrate what kind of leadership the city desires for the future. A city council seat also is up, and the choice there will be significant. I think that with relatively younger people in our city government, there will be possibly a fork in the road. They say that the third inevitable occurrence, aside from death and taxes, is change. It will always be that change occurs, for better or worse.

Having been a midwife at the long and painful birthing of the entity known as the place with the best climate on earth, Lemon Grove, I have a perspective. I have changed its diapers, and suffered through the terrible twos. I have been with it through the teens, and am now with it when it is eligible to join the military, or to go off on its own if it were a son or daughter of mine. The apron strings are cut, and maturity is anxiously assigned with the ever present paternal misgivings.

My affection for the "little community out there where they have the big Lemon" is greater now more than ever. My children are grown and gone, but I still treasure this place like no other. My hope is that the new generations will appreciate and revere this place as much as we old folks have, and preserve the true quality of life that it provides. The temptation of the gambling, the eagerness to spend the "savings accounts," the "feel-good" legislation that doesn't accomplish more than getting votes, or the pandering to special interests at the expense of the people, must all be resisted daily if not hourly.

When the rhetoric begins to flow in the next few weeks, remember that promises are not always fulfillable. We find that it is only after we elect someone that we really find out if they can deliver. The voters of Lemon Grove have always done an excellent job in choosing their government, and I am confident that they will continue to do so. They are common sense folks, and are capable of discerning the form versus the symbolism. I know that I am leaving our town in good hands, and am most appreciative of the honor bestowed upon me in electing me over the years. It has been a wonderful second career for me, and I am indebted to everyone for their support and friendship.

The City of Lemon Grove saves taxpayers money by publishing legal notices in the Review!

WEATHER

The following information was provided by the Lemon Grove Fire Department.

	High	Low
December 11	71	48
December 12	66	52
December 13	64	53
December 14	67	50
December 15	72	47
December 16	65	47
December 17	68	41

The Lemon Grove Review

3434 Grove Street, P.O. Box 127,
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• (619) 469-0101

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Submissions

Editorial and photo submissions are welcome, but will not be returned to sender unless accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to:
Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

Dec. 1, 1995 through Dec. 7, 1995

Hwy 94 EB/Lemon Grove Ave. Single engine response.
1600 blk. Angelus Ave. Fall.
3700 blk. Hilltop Dr. Evaluate for the Sheriff.
3200 blk. Olive St. Medical aid.
6800 blk. Mallard St. Fall.
1300 blk. Glencoe Dr. Chest pains.
8000 blk. Palm St. Unresponsive.
2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Medical aid.
3500 blk. Citrus St. Vehicle vs. structure/residence.
8000 blk. Broadway. Abdominal pains.
3200 blk. Olive St. Difficulty breathing.
3100 blk. Vista Ave. Possible coroner's case.
7900 blk. Longdale St. Motorcycle accident.
7300 blk. Broadway. Alarms ringing-commercial.
6800 blk. Mallard St. Fall.
3600 blk. Grove St. Difficulty breathing.
3500 blk. Grove St. Fall.
7500 blk. Pacific Ave. Abdominal pains.
1800 blk. Madera St. Possible Heart.
Buena Vista Ave./Pacific Ave. Traffic accident.
1600 blk. Watwood Rd. Alarms ringing-residential.
3200 blk. Main St. Evaluate for the Sheriff.
6900 blk. Central Ave. Medical aid.
2000 blk. Ensenada St. Alarms ringing-residential.
6700 blk. San Miguel Ave. Chest pains.
7300 blk. Canton Dr. Vehicle fire.
Hwy 94/Spring St. Vehicle fire/freeway.
7300 blk. Broadway. Alarms ringing-commercial.
8100 blk. Mt. Vernon St. Residential structure fire.
3200 blk. College Pl. Rectal bleeding.
3200 blk. Harris St. Fall.
2200 blk. Morose St. Medical aid.
8000 blk. Broadway. Broken leg.
3100 blk. School Ln. Difficulty breathing.
1800 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Residential structure fire.
Olive St./Pacific Ave. Head injury.

College Notes

The University of California, San Diego has launched a drive to encourage more of its students to vote in national, state and local elections. The university recently enclosed voter registration forms with billing statements sent out to collect student fees, according to Randy Woodard, assistant director of student activities and governments.

Woodard said this is the first time the university has participated in a voter encouragement program of this magnitude and, to his knowledge, a first for any of the UC campuses.

The drive was a joint venture of the Associated Students and Graduate Students Association, the university's Division of Student Affairs and University Mail Services.

"In our letter we reminded the students that the 1996 California primary will be held March 26, which occurs during the spring break," Woodard said. "They were advised that if they wouldn't be in San Diego at that time, they should use an absentee ballot."

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LEMON GROVE

NOTICE ADVERTISING FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received by the City Engineer of the City of Lemon Grove, 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California, up to the hour of:

2:00 P.M. on the 10th day of JANUARY, 1996 for performing work as follows:

SAN MIGUEL AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN LEMON GROVE AVENUE & MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE IN THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE CONTRACT NO. 95-07

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment, tools, supervision, labor and incidentals required to complete the above stated project. The work consists of street widening which includes sidewalk, curb, gutter and pavement installation.

The bids received will be publicly opened and read at the City Offices, 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, CA 91945, at the time stated above. Award shall be made by the City Council at a meeting subsequent to the date above set for the opening of bids.

The bid package may be exam-

ined at the Lemon Grove City Hall, 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California. Copies of the bid package and the specifications may be obtained at that location at a non-refundable charge of \$20.00 per set. The mailing fee is an additional \$10.00. All bidders should direct their questions during the bidding period to the Public Works/Engineering Department at (619) 464-6934.

No bid will be accepted from a Contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9, Division III of Business and Professions Code. The bidder for this Contract must possess a valid General Engineering Contractors "A" License.

The Successful bidder must have a City of Lemon Grove Business License prior to commencement of work.

The City Council of Lemon Grove hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement for bids, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements of wage rates to be paid under the

Contract. It should be noted by all bidders that the current State Prevailing Wage Rate Scale for the San Diego area will be required to be paid by all bidders under the conditions of the Contract. Specifically, this wage scale is the most recent "General Prevailing Wage Determination Made By The Director of Industrial Relations Pursuant To California Labor Code Division 2, Chapter 1, Part 7, Articles 2, 3, and 5." It shall be the responsibility of the Prime Contractor to comply with all applicable sections of the California Labor Code including but not limited to Sections 1776 and 1777.5.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or any combination of bids. Bids must be accompanied by a 10% bid bond as specified in Section I. Bidders Instructions of the bid documents. No bidder may withdraw his bid without forfeiture of his bid bond within sixty (60) calendar days after the actual date of the bid opening.

Prospective bidders are hereby directed to pay particular attention to the applicable section in the bid package for full directions and requirements as to submittal of bids, bonds and agreements.

Date 12/13/95

/s/ Douglas Yount
DOUGLAS YOUNT,
City Manager for City Engineer

The City of Lemon Grove com-

plies with the Americans With Disabilities Act. If you require reasonable accommodations for this bid opening, contact the City Public Works Department at (619) 464-6934 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled opening.

Lemon Grove Review
December 19 & 26, 1995

loan 39661397/cloyd/chula vist other 5233679 file 51072 a p n 577-182-14-00 notice of trustee's sale under deed of trust you are in default under deed of trust dated September 15, 1994, unless you take action to protect your property, it may be sold at a public sale. If you need an explanation of the nature of the proceeding against you, you should contact a lawyer. Notice is hereby given that Beneficial Management Corporation, a Delaware Corporation, as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee pursuant to the deed of trust executed by Jacqueline M. Cloyd, an unmarried woman, recorded on 09/20/1994 as instrument no. 95-0558475 in book n/a page n/a of official records in the office of the county recorder of San Diego county, California, and pursuant to the notice of default and election to sell thereunder recorded 08/31/1995 in book n/a page n/a, as instrument no. 95-0386179 of said official records, will sell on 12/26/1995 at the front steps of the county courthouse 220 west Broadway San Diego, CA at 1:00 p.m. at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), all right, title and interest, conveyed to and now held by it under said deed of trust in the property situated in said county and state hereinafter described as more fully described on said deed of trust the property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be 1625 dupont drive Lemon Grove, Ca 91945 the undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incor-

rectness of the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein the total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the notice of sale is \$93,271.42 in addition to cash, the trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the financial code and authorized to do business in this state in the event tender other than cash is accepted, the trustee may withhold the issuance of the trustee's deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said deed, advances thereunder, with interest as provided therein, and the unpaid principal balance of the note secured by said deed with interest thereon as provided in said note, fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and the trustee created by said deed of trust dated 12/01/1995 Beneficial Management Corporation Of America, As Said Trustee By Beneficial Management Corporation, A Delaware Corporation 140 e. commonwealth ave. suite 202 Fullerton, CA 92632 (714) 773-0800 By Joanne S. Herman Trustee sale officer P73141 12/5,12/12,12/19/95

LOAN: 7231093/HARRIS-CONV OTHER: 6700115 FILE:F-13712 A.P. NUMBER 577-012-02 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED July 27, 1994, UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF

THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NOTICE is hereby given that QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORP., as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by RONNIE JAY HARRIS, A MARRIED MAN AS HIS SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY, and Recorded on 07/29/1994 as Instrument No. 1994-0468163 of Official records in the office of the County Recorder of SAN DIEGO County, California, and pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded 09/08/1995 as Instrument No. 95-0401350 of said Official Records, WILL SELL on 01/08/1996 at 1:00 P.M. at THE FRONT STEPS OF THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE 220 WEST BROADWAY SAN DIEGO, CA AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State hereinafter described: LOT 16 IN BLOCK 2, OF MONTEREY HEIGHTS, IN THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE, IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ACCORDING TO MAP THEREOF NO. 1966, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID SAN DIEGO COUNTY, DECEMBER 6, 1926. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 2109-2111 EL DORA STREET, LEMON GROVE, CA 91945 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of

the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$125,175.35 In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed, advances thereunder, with interest as provided therein, and the unpaid principal balance of the Note secured by said Deed with interest thereon as provided in said Note, fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and the trustee created by said Deed of Trust, Dated: 12/11/1995 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORP., as said Trustee 1650 EAST FOURTH STREET, SECOND FLOOR SANTA ANA, CA 92701 (714)285-9962 By: DANIEL ALDANA, AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE QPP 20214 12/19,12/26/1995,12/19/96

Two Jesus Christs

Continued from Page 1

Matthew's list reads like a schoolboy copying right out of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Luke had Mary and Joseph living in Nazareth and traveling to Bethlehem because of a Roman census. Although historians say the Romans never asked people to travel far for these things, at least it's agreed that they conducted a census in 7 A.D. Matthew's slaughter of the innocents by Herod, on the other hand, has no historical corroboration.

Luke's gospel includes many details that indicate sources knowledgeable of first-century Jewish culture. Jesus is circumcised on the eighth day. A second trip is made to the Temple for his "redemption," a ritual for first-born males, and Mary's "purification," a ritual for new mothers.

Luke's description of the conception of John the Baptist prior to the birth of Jesus is also loaded with Hebraic nuance. Could Mary herself have been one of Luke's sources? After all, who would remember the words of Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55? Who heard the angel Gabriel speak in Luke 1:30-33? (Matthew says it was Joseph who received the vision).

Matthew's gospel lacks an insight of Jewish culture. His Christmas story insists that Jesus fulfilled five Old Testament prophecies regarding the messiah. Jews were not — and still are not — impressed with the argument because at least three of the references have nothing to do with the messiah.

For instance, the prophet Isaiah told King Ahaz more than 700 years before Christ that "the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). Isaiah spends the entire chapter assuring Ahaz that the combined armies of Aram (Syria) and Ephraim (Israel) will not defeat the Judeans and offers the birth of a son as a sign. The Hebrew word used by Isaiah, "almah," means "young woman."

Matthew sees the passage as a prophecy of the messiah fulfilled in the Virgin Birth of Christ. He also sees the Flight to Egypt as a fulfillment of Hosea 11:1. But "out of Egypt I called my son" is a reference back to the Exodus under Moses, not to a future messiah.

Matthew again flunks Judaism in asserting that Herod's slaughter of the innocents fulfills Jeremiah

31:15. But the voice "heard in Ramah, sobbing and loudly lamenting," refers to the town of Ramah, north of Jerusalem, where the Babylonians built detention camps around 586 B.C. for Jews being deported to Babylon.

As for the prophecy, "He will be called a Nazarene" (Matthew 2:23), no one can find such a passage in the Hebrew Scriptures (although Isaiah 11:1 is close).

Matthew doesn't seem familiar with ancient Judaism throughout his gospel, including the Trial of Jesus in chapter 26 (Luke has a simple rabbinic interrogation) and Jesus riding triumphantly into Jerusalem on two donkeys (a misunderstanding of the couplet structure in Hebrew poetry, see Matthew 21:2-7).

To the modern journalist, Luke's gospel seems leaner, more accurate and with better attribution to original sources. Matthew gets sent back for a rewrite.

Matthew the Poet

While the first-century physician, Luke, may have the makings of a modern journalist, it is unfair to impose modern journalistic standards on another culture in a bygone era. Matthew's version of the Nativity, despite its numerous departures from what Papias described as "oracles in the Hebrew tongue," was accepted by the church and placed two books ahead of Luke.

Matthew's version, much more than Luke's, has a poetic, visionary feel. He's not telling us he has "carefully investigated everything from the beginning," as Luke does in 1:3. His penchant for quoting Old Testament prophecy reflects an author more interested in describing what Jesus meant than spending hours combing halls of records.

When Matthew says Jesus is descended from David, he's talking about his belief in the kingship of Jesus. As the son of Isaiah's virgin, Jesus is linked to the mysterious "Immanuel," who goes on in Isaiah 9:6 to be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father."

Coming home from Egypt is indeed a reference to the Exodus, a poetic linking of Jesus and Moses. In Ramah, Jesus meets the

Hebrew prophets, who warned Israel for centuries that disrespect for God would bring foreign invasions and conquests.

When the Magi come to Bethlehem, Matthew isn't concerned about astronomy and geography. He's painting a picture of Jesus meaning something special to the whole earth.

For some, the gospels are to be accepted without question. For others, they are to be rejected as legendary. For others still, they are different, but equally valid, attempts at putting unspeakable things into words. That's a tall order for any writer.

This is the second of a two-part series on the historical context of Christmas. Besides publishing six weekly newspapers in East County, Steven Saint has written on religion for Our Sunday Visitor, His and Time magazines, and wrote Bible study materials for the Serendipity Bible for Groups.

No piggy bank



DeAnna Kendall, vice president and manager of the La Mesa Bank of America, led an army of B of A volunteers through a nearby Target store to purchase \$2,000 worth of toys for the Toys for Tots drive. They filled seven grocery carts and added seven new bicycles for local kids. Participating branches include: La Mesa Main, Lemon Grove, Casa de Oro, The Grove, Second & Peach and El Cajon Main in El Cajon, and Santee.

Kelly still holding out on career center

by Howard Owens

East County leaders are still no closer today than they were last week in getting job placement services in what is supposed to be a one-stop career center in El Cajon.

County Board of Education Trustee Jim Kelly promised a group of leaders Friday that he would make a final decision on whether he would support inclusion of the Employment Development Department (EDD) in the center by Monday morning.

"I still have questions that need answered," Kelly said Monday at noon. "The trouble is, I couldn't get questions answered over the weekend."

Kelly said he may not reach a decision until Wednesday evening, when the committee charged with oversight of the new facility meets at the district office of the Grossmont Union High School District.

The committee, a joint powers body comprising one elected official and one staff member each from the Grossmont district and county Office of Education, must reach a unanimous decision on inclusion of EDD in the new facility.

The committee has been deadlocked since Aug. 24, when Kelly first raised objections to EDD.

Without a unanimous vote to move forward on the project — with or without EDD — the districts have been in danger of not meeting deadlines imposed by the

sale of \$4.5 million in bonds. The districts cannot start repaying the debt until the 20,000-square-foot building, to be constructed at Main Street and Mollison Avenue, is occupied.

Last week, officials were hopeful of a breakthrough after the county Board of Education passed a non-binding resolution to support inclusion of EDD in the center. East County's two representatives on the board, Kelly and Tom Davies, voted against the resolution.

Their opposition to inclusion of EDD apparently puts them in a very small minority among East County leaders. No other leaders have expressed support for Kelly's position.

Several leaders have taken public positions in support of EDD, including those who sit on the board of the East County Economic Development Council, which passed a resolution last month supporting EDD.

On Friday, Supervisor Dianne Jacob brought together some of those leaders along with the joint powers committee for the project in El Cajon's City Hall.

Also at the meeting were El Cajon Mayor Joan Shoemaker, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District Trustee Rick Alexander, La Mesa Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President Gordon Austin, ECEDC Executive Director Deanna Weeks along with staff members from state Senator Steve Peace, D-40th, and Assemblyman Steve Baldwin, R-77th.

Kelly made a lengthy speech defending his holdout position, which by then had become a lone position after Don Shelton, the county staff member on the committee, announced he would switch his vote to support EDD.

Among Kelly's reasons for opposing EDD, he said, was that his staff had told him it was a bad idea, that the state would be hard to work with and that trying to put EDD in would delay the project. He said other trustees on his board had previously supported his position.

He also accused Grossmont officials of being less than forthright with him throughout the deadlock.

Kelly also expressed concern that EDD officials had not been firm enough in their commitment to the project. He also sought to reduce the number of EDD workers in the new facility.

Sally Snyder, East County director for EDD, said 15 to 18 staff members and 2,700-square-feet in the new building, was essential to provide adequate job placement and job search training for East County residents.

"We cannot do what we need to do in East County if we downsize," Snyder said.

EDD officials have signed a memorandum of understanding for the project and Snyder reiterated the agency's commitment to the project Friday.

"I don't want to make a spontaneous decision," Kelly said. "I want the weekend to sleep on it. There are some who would make me out to be the bad guy in all of this, but I will make the right decision."

Jacob still made one last attempt to get an answer from Kelly.

"I understand where you're coming from," Jacob said at the meeting. "I understand that you would like to sleep on this over the weekend, but I want you to know that a 'yes' from you today would help us all sleep better over the weekend."

Hospital, Haven work hard for people in need

Santa has a corner at Grossmont Hospital and employees are raising funds and buying gifts for 41 East County families they've adopted for the holiday season.

Named Santa's Korner, the program is in its 12th year of lending a helping hand by contributing food, gifts, toys, diapers and baby formula.

Yvette Frantz, manager of volunteer services, said one department at the hospital is buying twin beds for two children. Employees were several dollars short of their goal when one of the physicians, moved by the need of the family, donated the rest.

The Grossmont Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop then donated

bed frames which made it possible to give the family three beds.

"The single mother of two was moved to tears by such unexpected generosity," Frantz said.

Another department sponsored an opportunity drawing. While purchasing the gifts, the store manager offered a discount and the woman waiting in line behind the Grossmont philanthropists assisted by bagging the items.

"It was one of the most satisfying shopping experiences of my life!" said Frantz.

According to Frantz, stories like that are not at all unusual. "Grossmont Hospital employees have a proven record of generosity," she said. "Ingenuity and good

will are the operating forces behind Santa's Korner."

Haven Foundation

The Haven Foundation, a non-profit shelter for battered women and their children, is holding a gourmet Italian dinner and fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday at the El Cajon Community Center, 195 Douglas Ave. in El Cajon.

The evening will include a silent auction, fashion auction by French Champagne and dancing to disk jockey music. There will be a no-host bar.

Tickets will cost \$10 per person. For further information or for tickets, call 593-0143.

This paper is on the Web!

East County Online can be accessed through San Diego OnLine's community forum link.

<http://www.sandiego-online.com>

For information on access to the Internet, call 466-6800

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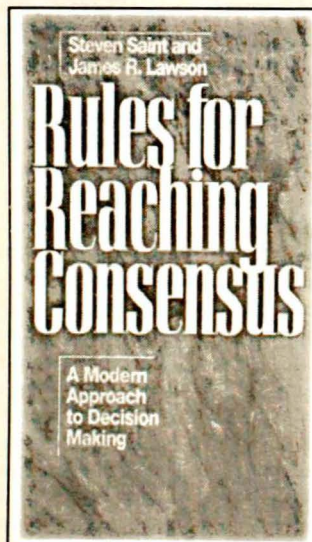
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